

Stormwater Stakeholders Meeting

Arboretum
September 26, 2003
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Meeting Summary

Introductions - Name and affiliation

Summary of Technical Sub-Group meeting - Don Witherill

Don summarized the discussion that had taken place at the technical sub-group meeting on September 17th (link to meeting summary is posted on DEP's web site).

Check-in on Outcome of September 5th meeting (summary posted on web site) – Ann Gosline

Ann asked if everyone had a chance to review the summary of the September 5th meeting and if there needed to be any additions, changes, etc. The group was satisfied with the meeting summary as is.

Overview of meeting agenda – Ann Gosline

Discussion of each brainstorming category (Pros, Cons, Challenges)

Encouraging Innovation - Pros

- Encourage academic study
- Flexibility (allowing developers/engineers to try new ideas even though it might not work)
- Allow thinking outside the box

Encouraging Innovation - Cons/Challenges

- Repercussions to the developer/engineer if the innovative idea doesn't work?
- New BMPs would not have any supporting data, even if approved for use

Encouraging Innovation - General Comments

- Could the university system get funded to work on BMP development and testing?
- Is there any money available through EPA for BMP research and evaluation?
- Technical Assistance available?
- The University of Maine has an environmental engineering department. Could this department be used?
- There is an experimental BMP monitoring project at UNH in Durham, NH. Todd will try to get more information for the group.

State as Leader – General Comments

- Ensure coordination with DOT, BGS and other state agencies
- Retrofit state buildings?
- BGS should consider the green government initiative when construction buildings
- Jennie encouraged everyone to sign-up to receive the stormwater magazine, it has lots of relevant information. To subscribe, go to: <http://www.stormh20.com/>
- Is there any state training for local code-enforcement officers?
- State should meet with big retailers and developers to talk about innovation and maintenance issues

Tailor Standard for Specific Areas

Write-off of certain stream segments – link with repair – Pros

- We should consider this or we may be promoting sprawl and causing worse problems
- Flood control

Write-off of certain stream segments – link with repair – Cons/Challenges

- Loss of streams in some urban areas
- Social value
- Money

Write-off of certain stream segments – link with repair – General Comments

- Is the write-off of a stream a permanent acknowledgement that a stream is non-productive forever or a temporary set-aside?
- What is meant by no degradation? Mitigation?
- Shouldn't it be changed to say that certain functions of a stream segment would be written off, not the stream segment as a whole?
- Could mitigation money be spent elsewhere?
- If a UAA is done, can any new sources be allowed?
- Functions that are important to preserve should be identified.
- Can there be a different classification for urban streams?

Target Growth Areas, Modify Standards if there is a Watershed Plan, Relax Related Laws – General Comments

- Are stream characteristics taken into consideration?
- If a watershed or municipal plan is in place, DEP may be able to relax standards in a growth area
- The Vermont standards would help in the growth areas, it is good for small sites not only the larger projects

ADDRESS FULL RANGE OF SOURCES

Existing Sources, Maintenance of BMPs, Single Family

Dwellings, Tax Incentives for Mitigation – General Comments

- Significant discharges should be identified
- Could a new standard be required when/if a property changes ownership?
- Could there be a lesser standard for existing sources than for new development?
- Including existing sources would allow improvement of water quality
- Would including existing sources allow for new development in impaired areas?
- There could be political resistance to inclusion of existing development
- Who would pay for upgrades?
- Some sites have physical limitations
- Where does the TMDL process fit into this?

It was decided that an additional smaller group would be formed in order to work with DEP on the report that will be submitted to the Legislature. A sign-up sheet was distributed. Don Witherill will be contacting interested parties to schedule an initial meeting.

Next Meeting

At the next meeting there will be a short session on Use Attainability Analysis (UAA): When to do a UAA, why a UAA is done, etc.. Materials will be distributed or added to the website prior to the meeting. There will be a discussion of watershed plans/districts, BMP maintenance and a progress report from DEP.